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Bethel Historical Society

1988 ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN RAISES OVER \$6000

Over 270 individuals and businesses contributed more than \$6000 to the 1988 endowment campaign. Much gratitude is expressed for the generosity of those listed below:

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(continued on page 2)



A Bethel-Fryeburg connection: Dr. Robert Goodwin Wiley (1807-1904) of Bethel (right), son of Benjamin, Jr. and Mary Bryant Wiley of Fryeburg, stands in his yard at the Skillingston section of Bethel beside his daughter Mary (seated) and his sister Mary Peary, mother of Admiral Robert E. Peary, the famed Arctic explorer.

BETHEL-FRYEBURG CONNECTIONS THROUGH THE YEARS By Stanley Russell Howe

Editor's Note: Earlier versions of this paper were delivered at meetings of the Bethel and Fryeburg historical societies.

Through the years the Oxford County towns of Bethel and Fryeburg have had many ties. Since Fryeburg lies considerably to the south of Bethel, it is not surprising that it is a bit older, settled originally in 1762-63; Bethel, on the other hand, was not settled until 1774. Fryeburg was incorporated in 1777; Bethel became so nineteen years later in 1796.

Bethel's first settler, Jonathan Keyes sold his holdings in Sudbury Canada (Bethel's original name) to Samuel Ingalls of Fryeburg in 1777. There is some question as to where this land was located. Eva Bean in EAST BETHEL ROAD wrote that it was in the vicinity of the present Olson farm in East Bethel just up the Androscoggin River from Bartlett Cemetery. Robert D. Hastings, cousin of the Fryeburg Hastings family, believes it is near his present house, some two miles down river. In any case, the deed describes a dwelling, a shed and a hay barn. Someone must have worked more than one season here to gather much of a crop to be stored. Dr. William B. Lapham in his HISTORY OF BETHEL said that here the two young sons of Jonathan Keyes stayed alone all one winter with the Indians. One boy was nine, the other fourteen.

After Ingalls came here in 1777, he was followed by others. Benjamin Russell, Sr., who had been an original proprietor, hog reeve and member of the Committee on Public Safety in

(continued on page 2)

(1988 Endowment Contributors, continued from page 1)

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EDITOR'S CORNER

The COURIER is sent to all members of the Society whose dues are current as well as to donors to the endowment, contributors to the collections, and volunteers, who although are not members, have contributed significantly to Society projects and programs. It is a major job keeping the mailing list current and monitoring those entitled to receive it as a membership benefit. With this issue we are warning those whose membership dues have not been received. If the address label has a red mark on it, this will be the last issue to be received unless dues are promptly sent. This procedure is regretted but increasing production and mailing costs make it necessary.

SRH

(Bethel-Fryeburg Connections, continued from page 1)

Fryeburg, moved to Sudbury Canada (now Bethel) in 1779. He settled on the farm now occupied by his (Theodore Russell², Jonathan Abbott Russell³, Betsy Hale Russell Stanley⁴, Ossian Russell Stanley⁵, Harold Stanley⁶) great, great, great, great granddaughter Geraldine Stanley Howe.⁷ Accompanied by his

wife Mary and their teenage daughter (age 15) also named Mary, Benjamin traveled to Bethel on snowshoes. Also accompanying the Russell family was Amos Hastings (later a General in the Maine Militia). The men brought sap sleds to haul the ladies over the worst parts of the trip. Benjamin Russell built his first house on the Intervale land not far from the Androscoggin river. A disastrous flood in 1785 revealed the folly of locating on that site. Others shared the same fate and lost their homes as well. Russell, like his neighbors, was forced to build on higher ground. He constructed his new house on the knoll above the present dwelling. This was later moved to today's site.

Benjamin Russell (1739-1802) was a guiding light in shaping the affairs of the fledgling plantation Sudbury Canada and became Bethel's first town clerk upon the town's incorporation in 1796, serving in that capacity (and as Justice of the Peace) until 1801, a period of five years. It is not known why Russell came to Sudbury Canada from Fryeburg, but he continued to own land in the latter town for three years after his departure before selling his holdings to Isaac Abbott in 1782. Apparently he wished to be certain that he could return if things did not work out for him in his new setting. He died in 1802 at the age of sixty-two and his wife soon followed in 1808 at the age of 69. They are both buried in the family cemetery above the present house.

Amos Hastings (1757-1829) was the youngest of six children. He participated in Lexington and Concord, helped dig the trenches and did some fighting at the battle of Bunker Hill in the American War for Independence. He later moved to Fryeburg, Maine from his native Andover, Massachusetts; on 10 September 1778, he married Elizabeth Wiley of Fryeburg. He snowshoed the forty miles to Sudbury Canada with Benjamin Russell, Sr. and family as already noted to survey the prospects for a future home. He apparently liked what he saw since he settled in Middle Intervale (then the center of the town) and the first town meeting was held on his property (accounts differ as to whether it was in his house or barn) in 1796 with his friend Benjamin Russell as Justice of the Peace, serving as incorporating officer. In W.B. Lapham's words, Amos Hastings "may justly be regarded as one of the fathers of the town."

By 1800, Amos had moved to establish what later became an impressive farm on the north side of the Androscoggin near the location of the present Route 2 rest area and in an earlier era where Kendall Ferry crossed to Middle Intervale. His last years were apparently spent on Broad Street at the home of his son John, now owned by one of John's descendants.

Captain Amos Hastings was made a Brigadier General in the Maine Militia in 1815. In the War of 1812 he volunteered to serve but was apparently not called upon for that brief conflict although the Society has in its collection a ceremonial sabre which is reputed to have belonged to him. He died at seventy-two and was buried in the Middle Intervale Cemetery, but later his remains were moved to Woodland Cemetery where they repose today.

Probably the most exciting chapter in Fryeburg-Bethel relations was that which occurred on 3 August 1781 when six Indians attacked the settlement of Sudbury Canada, taking two of its citizens captive. This event has ever since been known as "New England's Last Indian Raid."

John Grover was sent to Fryeburg on horseback to seek immediate assistance. It took half a day for him to reach Fryeburg, but the response was swift. Before nightfall a company of thirty men were assembled under the leadership of Captain Stephen Farrington. In Indian file, with the friendly Indian Sabbatis as guide, they walked all night and arrived at Captain Eleazor Twitchell's house by morning. They did not

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This winter's snowfall in New England was lighter than usual. A lack of snow brings advantages and disadvantages. Ice skating improves, but wells may be dry by August. Less plowing is necessary, but the ground freezes deeper. One could go on in this manner for some time. The occurrence of natural snowfall is an engaging topic of conversation. In the long run, however, dramatic changes are coming to Bethel as a result of artificial snowmaking at Sunday River and Mount Abram. Bethel is now in the midst of a major winter resort area.

A century ago the recreation "industry" in Bethel centered in the summer residences and inns, many of which were within the present Broad Street Historic District. Railroad coaches brought summer residents to the Bethel station where horse-drawn carriages and coaches waited to convey them to Bethel Hill and other parts of the town.

Summer and fall activities in this area have not diminished over the years, but today automobile traffic and crowds of skiers at local places of business reflect a definite change in the type of recreation sought in this area. Much of the building and "development" also are reflections of this change.

Permanent residents who used to peer at summer folks with a mixture of awe and curiosity now view the influx of winter visitors with a wider range of reactions. The ancient scholar Cicero might have summed all this up with one of his favorite sayings: "O tempora, O mores," which translates "Oh the times, oh the customs."

Marvin Ouwinga

hesitate to pursue the raiders even though the Indians had a thirty-six hour lead. They, however, were not successful and it is perhaps just as well since there was no telling what might have happened to Benjamin Clark and Nathaniel Segar had the party caught up with them. Almost certainly they would have been killed, thus robbing posterity of Segar's NARRATIVE, the only detailed account by a participant (albeit reluctantly) of the Raid.

The party returned from the search to Sudbury Canada; for a time the Fryeburg garrison must have stayed there but no one appears to know for how long. Fortifications were built near Captain Twitchell's little house on the island in Mill Brook, the other on the farm of Col. John York in what became the East Parish. For a time the men carried arms when they ventured out; one shot was the signal for all to speed to the shelter of the stockade or the log or plank houses that characterized life in those early days. The Fryeburg garrison eventually departed for home, probably after Sudbury Canada successfully petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts for additional protection.

Also in Sudbury Canada at the time of the Indian Raid was Abraham Russell. He came from Fryeburg and married Abigail Swan, daughter of James Swan, who had arrived here in 1779.

That same year Captain Joseph Twitchell, the original proprietor of the mills along Mill Brook, persuaded his son Captain Eleazor Twitchell, then living in Dublin, New Hampshire to move his family to Sudbury Canada and take charge of his property. Accordingly, Twitchell, his wife's sister Betsy Mason, five children and six hired men, John Grover, Jeremiah Andrews, Paul and Silas Powers, and a man named Fisk left

(continued on page 4)

SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 5% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile \$3.50
Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes) \$2 ea.

Moses Mason House
Summer House
Bethel Railroad Station
Bethel Covered Bridge

Booklets

"Bethel's Broad Street" 75c
"The Family Farm" 75c
"Made in Bethel" 75c
"Dr. Moses Mason and His House" \$1
"Molly Ockett" \$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2
1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel) \$2
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1
1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$6.50

Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo) \$7.50

Placemats, 4 Season (set of four) \$7.50

Special Editions

Bethel Citizen (1974) \$1
Indian Raid '81 \$1

Books

Russell, INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER \$11.95

William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE \$19.95

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Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason,

Moses Mason House 10c ea.

Bethel Historical Society Calendar, 1989 \$6

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(Bethel-Fryeburg Connections, continued from page 3)

Dublin and came as far as Fryeburg in the winter of 1780. In the spring, they completed the journey to Sudbury Canada where they lived for the rest of their days.

Jesse Duston, a descendant of the famous Hannah and her husband Thomas Duston of Haverhill, Massachusetts, although born in Methuen, Massachusetts, was among the early settlers of Fryeburg. He came to Sudbury Canada in 1778, married Elizabeth, daughter of James Swan. In 1782, their child became the first white child born in what was then the boundaries of the plantation (now part of the present town of Hanover, which seceded from Bethel in 1843).

About this time also Peter Austin came to Sudbury Canada from Fryeburg in 1780. His wife Deborah accompanied him here where he erected a camp near the present home of Arthur Head on Old Route 2 in West Bethel.

Timothy Chapman, third son and fifth child of Rev. Eliphaz Chapman, who named the town Bethel (from the book of Genesis meaning "House of God") in 1796, was seven years old when he came to Bethel. He never forgot the long, lonely, tedious journey from Methuen, Massachusetts to York, up the Saco to Fryeburg, and then by the old Indian trail through Lovell, Waterford and Albany to Bethel.

Another Fryeburg export seems to have been Samuel B. Locke, who married Hannah Russell, daughter of William Russell of Fryeburg. They had previously lived in Thetford, Vermont, Lempster and Newport, New Hampshire and in Fryeburg. His fourth child was born in Fryeburg in 1795 and his fifth child in Bethel in 1797, so he must have come to Bethel between those two dates. Later he built mills in Locke's Mills, where his name is perpetuated today in the present town of Greenwood.

Dr. John Locke, eldest son of Samuel B., was born in Lempster, New Hampshire in 1792 and came with his parents from Fryeburg to Bethel. He studied botany in the fields and woods bordering the Sunday and Androscoggin rivers and became proficient without the apparent aid of books and teachers in that subject. He later published a textbook on botany which was much admired for its simplicity of its arrangement and for the large number of specimens described, all of which he had gathered and painstakingly examined. He later studied medicine at Dartmouth and took his medical degree from Yale.

He did not spend much time here after medicine took most of his attention, but Dr. Robert Wiley, who was born in Fryeburg in 1807, did. He commenced the study of medicine under Dr. Ira Towle of Fryeburg and subsequently with Dr. John Grover of Bethel. He began the practice of medicine when Dr. Moses Mason of Bethel left medical practice for Congress in 1832. Dr. Wiley's nephew was the famed Arctic explorer Robert E. Peary whose ties with Fryeburg are well-known. Not so familiar is the fact that Peary also spent considerable time in Bethel attending grammar school here briefly and visiting his uncle in the house that still stands just outside the Steam Mill on Route 2.

Dr. Almon Twitchell, born in Bethel in 1811, the son of Joseph Twitchell, the first male child born at Bethel Hill, received his medical education in the office of Dr. Ruel Barrows of Fryeburg, where he remained for three years. Later of course, Dr. Twitchell trained William Berry Lapham, who best known as the author of five Oxford County local histories, in the wiles of medicine.

William Frye was the first lawyer in Bethel. He was born in Fryeburg in 1796, the youngest son of Richard Frye, grandson

of General Joseph Frye, the founder of Fryeburg. There is in the Dr. Moses Mason House dining room the clock that William Frye brought from Fryeburg to Bethel in 1821. This clock was built in 1805 by Jonathan Ward of Fryeburg.

Fryeburg has also had a role in Bethel's religious life. On 9 October 1799, Rev. Daniel Gould, who later gave his name to the local academy, was installed as pastor of the Congregational Church in Bethel. Rev. William Fessenden of Fryeburg delivered the sermon for the occasion. In the twentieth century, Solomon T. Achenbach was minister of the Fryeburg Congregational Church (1915-1920) before moving to Bethel.

It is, perhaps, time to mention one of Bethel's exports to Fryeburg. Rev. Javan K. Mason was the son of Walter Mason of Grover Hill in Bethel. He fitted for college at Gould Academy and graduated from Bowdoin College in 1845 and Bangor Theological Seminary. He was long the pastor of the church at Hampden and later at Thomaston, where he was also chaplain for the Maine State Prison. While in Thomaston he became interested in the movement for upgrading prison conditions. He later moved to Fryeburg where he enjoyed a long pastorate before moving out of state.

A high school was established in Bethel in 1835. Before that time, young men and women needing additional schooling had gone to other Oxford County academies, including the one at Fryeburg. When the high school became Gould's Academy in 1842, two of its trustees were graduates of Fryeburg Academy. An early principal, Joseph Pickard, left Bethel to head Fryeburg Academy, but later the reverse was true with Benjamin Snow in 1864. For many years in the twentieth century there existed an intense rivalry between Fryeburg and Gould academies in football. During Robert Scott's twenty-three years of coaching football for Gould, his teams won 111 games and lost 46. They were able to best arch-rival Fryeburg Academy sixteen times in the twenty games that were played during this era.

One of Bethel's most prominent citizens in the middle of the nineteenth century was Moses Pattee, son of David and Rachael Pattee of Fryeburg. He was born in Fryeburg in March 1804. He married Hannah Farrington on 28 November 1830, moved to Albany and developed mills whose foundations still bear his name today. In 1859, he built Pattee's Hall on Spring Street in Bethel, long the center of Bethel's social and political life.

Among marriages between Fryeburg and Bethel people are the following:

- (a) Jonathan Bartlett of Bethel married Mary Shaw of Fryeburg.
- (b) Simeon Brown of Bethel married Sophie Holt of Fryeburg.
- (c) Polly Duston of Bethel married William Meserve of Fryeburg.
- (d) Luther Eames of Bethel married Abigail Russell of Fryeburg.

John Kilgore, son of John, married Elizabeth Brickett of Berwick, moved to Fryeburg and then to Bethel. He settled in Middle Intervale, where his son John also lived. In 1796, he was elected to head the first board of selectmen for the newly formed town of Bethel.

David Hammons was authorized to employ a Mr. Lovett of Fryeburg to make a copy of the original plan of Bethel. Hammons, a local attorney and former U.S. Representative, was so empowered to take the deposition of Joseph A. Twitchell, who identified the original plan.

Dr. Nathaniel T. True, one of Bethel's most famous citizens in the 19th century, a prolific writer and publicist for the town, founder of what became Gould Academy and later its principal



Dr. Edwin Churchill, Chief Curator of the Maine State Museum (right), discusses a piece of painted furniture at the Society's November monthly meeting with Society president Dr. Marvin Owunga. Dr. Churchill's lecture on Maine painted furniture was the final presentation in a series commemorating the 175th anniversary of the construction of the Dr. Moses Mason House. Photo courtesy of Donald S. Brown.

for thirteen years, organizer of the first Farmer's Club in Maine and editor of the MAINE FARMER delivered the main address at Fryeburg's centennial in 1863.

One of the most noteworthy exports of Fryeburg to Bethel is the Brown family who from 1936 to 1983 operated Brown's Variety, a Main Street institution at which for forty seven years one could find almost everything.

A significant cooperative effort between the Bethel Historical Society and Fryeburg's Helen Leadbeater was the writing of the booklet on Molly Ockett, an Indian both towns share.

The Society's Curator of Collections, Randall H. Bennett, is a direct descendant of the Frye family of Fryeburg.

In this all too brief survey, it appears that much of Bethel's history, particularly the early years, was deeply influenced by those with Fryeburg connections. We have few instances where Bethel exported her sons and daughters to Fryeburg. There certainly have been more intermarriages than those mentioned above.

One of the most interesting migrations is that of the Hastings family, long one of the most distinguished in both Fryeburg and Bethel. Amos Hastings came to Bethel from Fryeburg as has already been mentioned. His son John spent his life in Bethel, but John's son David Robinson Hastings reversed family tradition and established the dynasty so well-known in Fryeburg today. David's brother Daniel S. Hastings of Bethel, a civil engineer for the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad, was instrumental in preparing plans which connected Fryeburg with Portland.

All of the above is but a preliminary survey; much more "digging" needs to be done. One thing is clear already and that is the fact that many of both town's first settlers came from the same Massachusetts towns: Methuen, Andover, etc. This article should serve as a first step to explore migration patterns from Massachusetts to western Maine. It may also point in some of the directions that must be examined in order to explore how one Oxford County town has influenced another.



The Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution met on October 1 at Middle Intervale Cemetery to place an official marker on the grave of Simeon Sanborn. The marker was made possible through a donation of a descendant, Mrs. Henry Pusey of the Bill of Rights Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Woodbridge, VA. Sanborn was born 5 July 1759 and baptized at Hampton Falls, NH, 8 July 1759. Early in life he moved to Standish, ME with his father. He married Hannah Ward (1763-1850); she is buried by his side at Middle Intervale. During the American Revolution, Sanborn served in various companies between 1776 and 1779 and saw service at Valley Forge. Sanborn was one of the first settlers of Greenwood. By 1805, he owned a sawmill there, where boards and shingles for many of the early houses were sawed. He later sold his mill to Amos Richardson and moved to Bethel, where he spent the remainder of his years. He was the father of nine children, eight of whom survived to adulthood.

Leading the festivities was the regent of Amariscoggin Chapter, DAR, Grace A. Leeman, assisted by Helen McLeod, historian, and Doris Philbrick, chaplain. Society Director Stanley R. Howe, host for the group and a Sanborn descendant, served as master of ceremonies. Remarks on the occasion of the official marking were heard from the president of the Maine Society, SAR, Ben Harding of Thomaston. The fall meeting of the Maine SAR was held in Bethel to coincide with this ceremony.

Following the marker ceremony, Society member Elizabeth Mason Carter, conducted tours of the historic Middle Intervale Meeting House, Bethel's oldest surviving meeting house, built in 1816.

REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY

(Continued from the last issue)

By Leslie E. Davis

I got busy writing about myself and forgot to write about my sister Gladys. In the early summer of 1919, she was to have a baby and was living at East Bethel with her husband Russell Swan and his parents. Probably due to a combination of overwork and neglect of proper prenatal care, she developed acute Bright's disease when the baby was born and did not survive. The baby died as well. Her husband married again a year or so afterward and carried on the farm at East Bethel for awhile before moving to Connecticut.

Another thing that I forgot to put in about the year 1918 or 1919 was the fact that I took over the North Newry Post Office and was Postmaster from July 1919 until July of 1922; the location was changed from the Dennis Kilgore house near the Branch Brook to my father's house. After I moved to Bethel in 1922, my mother took over the Post Office and Postmastership. Also at the annual town meeting of Newry in the spring of 1919, I was elected Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, and Tax Collector; I performed these offices until we moved to Bethel.

Still another thing that I believe should be mentioned at about this same period is the fact that in 1916 I took out a \$5 a month savings account in a loan and building association; in 1918 I increased it to \$10 a month and followed it faithfully although at times it was something of a hardship. The reason for putting in these small items is the fact that probably the small income from these various extra activities, when added together, plus the amount earned by Marie while cooking in the woods and mill boarding house, plus the amount of insurance payments received for loss of part of one finger in an accident in the sawmill in the spring of 1921, were the basis for my later ventures in business as we were able out of it to accumulate something of a savings fund, probably about eleven or twelve hundred dollars; this sum plus considerable credit granted me by various people has done very well for us during the next thirty years.

During the same spring season after I abandoned the mill project (which ended in a loss), I hired out to J.P. Skillings of Bethel to fix up the birch saw mill which he owned on Bear River between Poplar Tavern and Horse Shoe Falls, and pick up crew to saw about 250 cords of birch into spool bars to be trucked and finished at his spool mill in Bethel.

Father and Earl were able to carry on the farm during the five weeks or so that it took to do this job and Mr. Skillings paid me what was then a pretty good price for running the saw mill crew and doing the filing, \$30 a week (no deductions). I also wanted the experience. We finished the sawing job about the first of June so that I was able to help with the farm work during the crop and haying season.

My father was always a pretty thrifty and fore-handed man; he planned to get his farm work and haying done early so as to work out for some of his neighbors and pick up some extra money. Earl and I also went along with the idea and for two or three years we took on the job of cutting and housing the hay on

(continued on page 8)

IN MEMORIAM

Died in West Paris, ME, December 29, 1988, Dorothy Graves, member since 1979.

Died in Berlin, NH, December 24, 1988, George P. Stowell, Jr., life member since 1980 and generous donor to the endowment fund.

Died in Norway, ME, December 21, 1988, Irma H. Thompson, member since 1977, life member since 1987 and generous donor.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN 1989

Faye Taylor Memorial Art Show	May 27
Dr. Moses Mason's 200th Birthday	May 28
Mason Family Reunion at Bethel	July 1
Molly Ockett Day	July 15
Maine Old Cemetery Association	
Summer Meeting at Bethel	July 22
Sudbury Canada Days	Aug. 12-13

BOOK REVIEW

METALLAK, HIS LEGACY. By Alice Daley Noyes. (Colebrook, NH: By the Author, 1988. Pp. 257. \$18.95.)

This novel is introduced to the reader by a disclaimer classifying the book as fiction "although historical information herein is based on facts." The author, a Colebrook, NH native, now a Manchester, NH realtor, has produced in her first novel a story about Metallak, the male counterpart to the famous Indian from Bethel's early days, Molly Ockett. Although Bethel's Molly Ockett Day (not to mention the many geographic landmarks and commercial enterprises bearing her name) tends to make her name more familiar to present residents of western Maine, Metallak is also remembered by several early Bethelites, including Dr. Moses Mason. The moose horn chair and the hat rack in the Dr. Moses Mason House were fashioned from moose antlers acquired by the Doctor from Metallak.

METALLAK: HIS LEGACY will be interesting to readers since all sorts of personalities from colonial times appear: Sabattis, Molly Ockett, Tomhegan, the Merrill family of Andover, etc. They have been included with places, events, and institutions in the story. Also found are references to the St. Francis Mission at Odanah, Dartmouth College, the raid on Sudbury Canada and King Philip's land grant. The novel often reads like an early American "soap opera" with a beautiful woman from a murky past along with much family infighting, and a noble, tragic hero, the chief protagonist of this tale.

The novel will, however, disappoint readers seeking to learn more about the Indians of the Androscoggin River Valley and Coos County of New Hampshire. Ms. Noyes does indicate in her Foreword that the works of Gordon Day, a leading expert on the subject, are her major sources; she has also cited other authorities and made reference to related works in the field. Much of the material in the novel is based on fact, but she has filled in gaps in Metallak's life with items from her imagination and created a stronger role for his first wife than may have been the case. For the reader, separating fact from fiction will be a major challenge, but the story is an intriguing one.

Catherine S-C. Newell

Catherine Newell, Director of SAD #44 Adult and Community Education, is a past president of the Bethel Historical Society and author of the Society's booklet on Molly Ockett.

1989 SOCIETY

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS

January 5, Annual "So You Think You Know Bethel"; February 2, Annual Historical Film Festival; March 2, The Bethel Water Company, 1889-1989; April 6, "The Land of Norumbega", slide presentation followed by an introductory lecture by Stanley R. Howe, Director, Bethel Historical Society (funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities); May 4, "Bethel's Paradise Street", slide lecture by Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Bethel Historical Society; June 1, "Mills, Markets and Techniques: Lumbering in Maine, 1620-1920", slide lecture by Richard Judd, Department of History, University of Maine and author of **AROOSTOOK: A CENTURY OF LOGGING IN NORTHERN MAINE**; July 6, Annual Picnic, "Bethel Town Clerks Through The Years", remarks by Merton T. Brown, Jr., Bethel Town Clerk, Dedication of marker for Benjamin Russell, Sr., First Town Clerk of Bethel; August 3, "Romanticism and Maine Indians: Myth and Reality", lecture by Harold E. L. Prins, Anthropology Department, Colby College (funded in part by the Maine Humanities Council); September 7, 24th Annual Meeting, Pot Luck Supper beginning at 6:30 P.M., business meeting and program beginning at 7:30 P.M., Speaker, Gwilym R. Roberts, College Historian, University of Maine at Farmington, "Sources of Local History: The Routine and the Remarkable" October 5, "Thomas Cole, Frederick Church, and the American Dream", slide lecture by Wesley McNair, Language and Literature Department, University of Maine at Farmington (funded in part by the Maine Humanities Council); November 2, Annual "What's It" and Collectibles Night; December 7, Annual "Christmas with the Masons." All meetings will be held in the meeting room of the Dr. Moses Mason House and begin at 7:30 P.M. The annual picnic will be held on the farm of Benjamin Russell, Sr., now the home of his descendant Geraldine Howe, beginning at 6 P.M.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

HELENE DECKER, Oxford, ME is an avid genealogist and has donated family history materials to the Society. JOHN & MARGARET KING, Lakeland, FL are retired. He is a 1938 graduate of Gould Academy. RICHARD & DORIS VALENTINE, Bethel, are retired and have a new home on the Valentine family property, Northwest Bethel. JOHN W. YORK, Lilburn, GA, is a descendant of Col. John York, an early settler of Bethel.

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) free admission to the museum | (5) quarterly publication |
| (2) special discounts at museum store | (6) reduced course fees |
| (3) preferred rate for meeting room rental | (7) voting rights in the Society |
| (4) special library and archival privileges | (8) special invitations to Society occasions |

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| Sustaining (Individual) \$5 | Life over 55 years \$50 single |
| Contributing \$15 | Life over 55 years \$75 couple |
| Patron \$30 | Life under 55 years \$100 single |
| Benefactor \$40 | Life under 55 years \$150 couple |
| Students (under 18 years) \$2 | Individual preference (any amount over \$5) |
| Senior (over 55 years) \$3 | Corporate \$50 |



Born in Brooklyn, New York, Olive Anderson grew up at the home of her grandfather, a prominent architect and builder. She attended Erasmus Hall High School and Wagner College. Employed in a Brooklyn law firm, she later worked in the Wall Street real estate office of Charles F. Noyes & Company until the birth of her son. She married William Anderson in 1946; he died in 1967. They moved to Bay Shore, Long Island in 1951.

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES



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(L.E. Davis Memoirs, continued from page 6)

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